

Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is when a follower of Christ publicly confesses their personal commitment to Jesus Christ. It is the symbolic washing away of one's old, sinful past and the rising again to life, God's way. Ok, so that's a really "churchy" or "mature" answer. But basically, we get baptized because (1) Jesus was baptized and he asked for followers of Him to be baptized too (2) It's a way for us to tell others that we are followers of Jesus. Baptism can be defined as an outward expression of an inward decision.

Kinda like a wedding ring....

Wearing a wedding ring doesn't make you married. It's the commitment two people make to one another any God that makes them married. The ring just shows everyone that they're married. That's what baptism is like, it doesn't make us a follower of Christ; it just shows everyone we already are.

Baptism illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection. **1 Cor. 15:3-4**

Baptism illustrates new life as a Christian. **Rom. 6:4**

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a NEW LIFE." Romans 6:4

Baptism does not make you a Christian. It is a demonstration that you already believe. It is important to understand that baptism does not "save you". You are "saved" only by your faith in Jesus.

Why do we get baptized?

To follow the example set by Christ and because Christ commanded it. **Matt. 28:19-20**

When is a good time to get baptized?

As soon as you believe! There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to trust Christ with your life, you can and should be baptized. If you're waiting until you're perfect, you'll never be ready!

